The Central Government has been actively involved in Capacity Building of private and public sectors. A number of workshops have been organized in the past, and government officials participate in various seminars organized by industry associations and others. The Government has come out with CDM Tool Kits in collaboration with Asian Development Bank (ADB), which has been well received by all stakeholders. The Government had also initiated capacity building exercise with other multilateral agencies, *viz.* UNDP and GTZ, including capacity building of selected State level agencies.

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Sir, as per the reply of the Minister, according to the National Strategy Study conducted in the year 2005, estimates of the potential for domestic industry with regard to generation of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) are around 417 million tonnes of carbon-dioxide equivalent by the end of first commitment period of Kyoto Protocol, i.e., 2012. I understand that the Kyoto Protocol will expire in 2012. What will happen after that? This is what I would like to know from the hon. Minister.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, the first commitment period of Kyoto Protocol will end in 2012. However, discussions are on further, deeper and longer commitments for Annexe I countries for the second commencement period post 2012.

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Sir, my second supplementary is,—it is part(d) of my question—will the hon. Minister tell which are the States and State-level agencies with which the Central Government is actively involved in capacity building of private and public sector?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, we have done a lot of capacity-building programmes. With the help of various organisations like the UNDP-MoEF umbrella project on capacity-building of selected State-level agencies for small-scale CDM projects for learning-by-doing-routine, in 13 States CDM facilitation centres have been commissioned. These include Arunachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Orissa, Jharkhand, Haryana and Bihar. We have also got a GTZ capacity-building programme—'Development of Selected Methodologies and Projects' under CDM, technical support to national CDM Authority. Under ADB technical assistance on capacity building, the following book was published, "A guide to Tool Kits", for implementing small scale CDMs.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, Carbon trading is a very important subject in the world today. I would like to know whether the Government would like to start a Carbon trading exchange, which would cover not only Asia and Africa but also help international business in a big way. Also, he has said that the Government proposes to create a pool of trained offset-aggregators, climate-change consultants and bankers. What is the price earned by Indian entities per unit of CER?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, a debate is going on regarding the issue of Carbon-exchange. This is basically the subject matter of the Finance Ministry.

Universal Service Obligation Fund

*105. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two private telecom operators have been found making false claims and drawing excess subsidy from the Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund for providing services in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government against them for making wrong subsidy claims?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Errors have been identified in claims submitted by private and State owned service providers who have entered into agreements with Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). However, all such ineligible claims are disallowed at the time of claim verification stage itself or subsequently at the time of physical inspection.

(b) The errors committed, *inter-alia*, are arithmetical mistakes, claims against faulty, disconnected and closed connections and claims for connections ineligible areas.

(c) Following steps are taken with reference to ineligible claims:—

(i) All such ineligible claims on detection are disallowed.

(ii) Based upon implementation experience, the method of claim verification is continuously improved for ongoing as well as new activities undertaken by USOF.

SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what efforts are being made by the Government to take telecom revolution to the villages in our country.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, the question relates to the Universal Service Obligation Fund under which rural telephony and rural tele-density is being improved.

Sir, in terms of financial achievements, right from the year 2002-03, when the USO Fund came into existence with a statutory status, so far, the funds accumulated, which are non-lapsable, amount to Rs. 14,999 crores. Out of these Rs. 14,999 crores, till date, Rs. 5375 crores have been released upto 30th September, 2007 and a further approximately Rs. 5,000 crores have been earmarked for ongoing activities. Out of these funds, the major works being carried out by the Ministry are: operation and maintenance of village public telephones, that is, Provision of Village public telephones have in the villages where accessibility of telephones has not been given to the very remote villages installation of rural community phones and installation of rural direct exchange lines and shared infrastructure for mobile services. These are the major activities being carried out by the USO Fund, the Universal Service Obligation Fund.

In terms of physical achievement, other operators were permitted to participate in the achievement of the goal. So far, the physical achievement that has been made under the USO Fund is the replacement of MARR (Multi-Access Radio Relay) with VPTs. Since it is a comparatively old technology, Government wanted to replace the MARR technology with VPTs on reliable technology. So far, 1,79,365 VPTs have been replaced out of 1,82,766 MARR VPTs.

In the other provisions, for rural community phones, so far, through BSNL and Reliance, we have provided 37,786 rural community phones out of 43409 RCPs. In terms of RDEL (Rural Direct Exchange Lines), so far, about 25 lakh RDELs have been provided in 1685 Cost Positive SPCAs. So, in terms of physical achievement and financial achievement also, we are going to give fullest rural telephony in the near future.

SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Does the Government propose to issue guidelines for the companies emerging in the field of telecommunication?

SHRI A. RAJA: What kind of guidelines?

SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: I repeat my question. Does the Government propose to issue guidelines for the companies emerging in the field of telecommunication?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, already, provisions are there. I think, there is no need of any other guidelines.

SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Any further guidelines?

SHRI A. RAJA: Adequate guidelines and provisions are available with regard to USO Fund. I do not think it is necessary.

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि: धन्यवाद सभापति महोदय। मंत्री महोदय बहुत होशियार और नौजवान हैं। मेरा सवाल मूल सवाल से अलग है, कृपा करके ऐसा नहीं कहेंगे, क्योंकि यह गरीबों का सवाल है। महोदय, कायदे से लाखों-करोड़ों रुपया इधर-उधर होता है — डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ टेलिकॉम कहिए या दूसरे डिपार्टमेंट में भी। जब डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ टेलिकॉम था, उसमें हजारों की संख्या में केजुअल मजदूर काम करते थे। आज के जमाने में आउटसोर्सिंग के नाम से आप गरीबों को आउटविट कर रहे हैं। एक समय डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ टेलीकॉम में केजुअल मजदूर कहा जाता था, आजकल कांट्रैक्ट लेबर कहते हैं। आपके माध्यम से मेरा सीधा सवाल यह है कि देश में जो हजारों केजुअल मजदूर काम करते थे, उनके नियमतिकरण के लिए उनके मंत्राालय ने क्या किया है और अब जो कांट्रैक्ट लेबर हैं, उनकी हालत सुधारने के लिए मंत्रालय क्या करता है?

SHRI A. RAJA: This question relates to USO Fund. If there is any specific grievance with regard to employees, let me know. Then, I will reply to the hon. Member....*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one question, please.

*106. [The questioner (SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAM) was absent. For answer *vide* page 19 *infra*.]

JNNURM funds for AP

*107. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had allocated sufficient funds to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for the current year for the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the projects undertaken for this purpose during the last three years, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the amount allocated and spent under this mission in each State during the current year and the progress achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) An indicative allocation of Rs. 18903.00 lakh has been made for the current year 2007-08 for State of Andhra Pradesh under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of JNNURM. As regards Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) another component of JNNURM an amount of Rs. 5393.00 lakh has been provided for 2007-08.